

DISCUSSION GUIDE



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THE
CLOUD

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Follow The Cloud

BIG IDEA: God's grace restores our identity.

GROUPS VISION

We believe life transformation happens when we engage with other people, with Jesus as our focus, and take next steps together. A next step is where we Ask, Listen, and Respond to take any action that advances our journey with Jesus.

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KEY VERSE

"For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost."

Luke 19:10

POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

This week, ask God to reveal to you who you can take the Follow the Cloud challenge with and process Circle One together.

MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

God leads us in small steps, not giant leaps. Each step is designed to help you discover who you are, who he is and what you were created to do. We are drawn by grace, not driven by expectations. The grace of God is more than the forgiveness of sin, it is the complete transformation of identity. Understanding your identity is the foundation of a life of freedom.

- 1. God's grace restores our identity.** The Israelites were slaves for 400 years; that's who they were and what they did. But one day, when they least expected it, God showed up and set them free. They were no longer slaves, they became beloved sons and daughters. God didn't just cancel their debt, He credited their account. **(Luke 19:10, Exodus 6:6-8)** The same is true for us; what was lost in Adam, Jesus came to restore. In Him we are righteous, redeemed and a new creation. **(Romans 5:17-19, Ephesians 2:8-9, 2 Corinthians 5:17)** We are defined by what Jesus did instead of what we do. When we understand who we are, it changes what we do. We are more than sinners saved by grace; we are beloved sons and daughters. In Jesus your identity is already established. **(Romans 10:17 NKJV, Romans 6:14 NLT, Hebrews 8:12)**
- 2. We are not defined by what we do, or by what they did, but by what Jesus has done.** We are not the shame of our past or the accomplishments of our hands. Too often we let other things define us; while those things may have shaped us, they do not define us. **(Jeremiah 1:5-8)** Like the Israelites, we sometimes want to go back to Egypt because it's easier to perform for approval than it is to trust God for acceptance. Life isn't about how much we achieve; it's about how well we receive. **(John 1:12)** What we learn from Jesus' life is that Jesus didn't need from people what He already had in the Father. He could follow the cloud into any situation because He knew He was loved and had nothing to prove. **(Matthew 3:17, John 5:31-32)**
- 3. Next steps aren't expectations to fulfill, they are discoveries to be made.** When God set the Israelites free, their identity was defined and declared. There was nothing they needed to do for God because God had just done everything for them. God was inviting them to discover the fullness of the freedom they now had. **(Leviticus 26:13)** Every next step we take helps us discover more of who we already are. If we are included in Christ, then we will never get to the end of discovering who we fully are because we will never get to the end of discovering all of Him. **(Ephesians 3:8 NLT)** As we continue to take next steps, our identity is declared over us. We are no longer spiritual orphans, we are beloved sons and daughters. **(Romans 8:15-16)**

DISCUSSION

1. Where does your identity come from and what ungodly beliefs is God inviting you to repent, change your thinking, about? (See point #1)
2. Where do you go to hide when you mess up; Netflix, old habits, social media, worry? How has Jesus met you in those places to restore your identity? (See point #2)
3. Describe how God is inviting you to discover more about who you are and more about who He is? (See point #3)
4. How will you engage in the Follow the Cloud Challenge?
5. **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?**

**My
Story.**

An encounter with Jesus leaves a story to tell. Share yours at valleycreek.org/MyStory